

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated October 4, 2006, and in accordance with the telephone interview courteously granted on January 23, 2007.

A Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time is submitted herewith. Please charge deposit account number 02-1818 for the One-Month Extension of Time fee and for any other fees which are due in connection with this Response.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 to 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,863 to Baerlocher et al. ("Baerlocher") and in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,584,763 to Kelley et al. ("Kelly"). As discussed during the January 23, 2007 telephone interview, Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses this rejection.

Independent Claim 1 recites, at least in part, a display device including an indicator operable to rotate about an axis *as the axis translates* relative to the reel and operable to sequentially indicate different ones of the symbols displayed by the reel, the indicator including a plurality of pointers that are operable to sequentially point toward the reel as the indicator is rotated about the axis.

Independent Claim 7 recites, at least in part, a display device including a symbol display operable to simultaneously display a plurality of first symbols, and a first symbol indicator operable to rotate about an axis *as the axis moves substantially parallel to the symbol display* to indicate different ones of the first symbols displayed by the symbol display, the first symbol indicator including a plurality of pointers operable to sequentially point towards the symbol display as the first symbol indicator is rotated about the axis.

Independent Claim 14 recites, at least in part, a method of operating a gaming device including simultaneously displaying a plurality of symbols on a symbol display, *translating an axis of rotation of the symbol indicator relative to the display of symbols*, and rotating the symbol indicator so that multiple pointers extending from the symbol indicator sequentially point towards the display.

Independent Claim 20, recites, at least in part, a method of operating a gaming device including rotating a symbol indicator about an axis *as the axis translates relative to the display of symbols*, wherein multiple pointers extending from the symbol indicator sequentially point towards the display.

The Office Action alleges that Baerlocher teaches all of the elements of independent Claims 1, 7, 14 and 20 with the exception of a plurality of pointers. (See, Office Action, pg. 7). Baerlocher provides a bonus selector or indicator 36 in the form of a rotating pointer that rotates about a stationary axis and is positioned in the center of a bonus wheel. (See, Baerlocher, col. 3, lines 37 to 38). However, as mentioned above and as discussed during the telephone interview, independent Claims 1, 7, 14 and 20 recite, at least in part, an indicator operable to rotate about an axis as the axis translates relative to (or moves substantially parallel to, as in Claim 7) the symbol display or reel, the indicator including a plurality of pointers that are operable to sequentially point toward the symbol display or reel as the indicator is rotated about the moving axis.

In one example embodiment illustrated in Fig. 4 of the present application, the axis 82 of the indicator 80 is along a mounting shaft 102 affixed to the back side of the indicator 80. (See, Specification, pg. 12, lines 4-6). In this example, a stepper motor 58b which is controlled by a motion controller 56b, causes the rotation of the indicator 80 about the axis 82. Also in this example, the motion producing device 58b is mounted to mount 108 which includes a collar 112 and which is journaled about a lead screw 114. (See, Specification, pg. 12, line 19 page 13, line 2). A gusset 116 supports the mounting surface of mount 108 with respect to the load placed on such surface via the cantilever caused by motor 58b and indicator 80. (Id.). Mount 108 also includes a threaded portion or welded nut 118, which threadingly receives the shaft or lead screw 114. The lead screw arrangement in combination with stepper motor 58a provides a highly accurate and versatile mode of converting the rotational output of output shaft 124 of stepper motor 58a to the translational motion of the axis 82 of the indicator 80 which is set by the mounting shaft 102.

Therefore, as discussed during the interview, Claims 1, 7, 14, 20 and dependents thereof are not rendered obvious from the disclosure in Baerlocher of a pointer that rotates about a stationary axis.

The Office Action relies on Kelly merely for the purported teaching of a plurality of pointers. Similar to Baerlocher, Kelly discloses a circular display having a rotating symbol indicator. The indicator in Kelly does not include an axis of rotation that translates or moves in parallel with respect to anything. For at least these reasons,

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Baerlocher and Kelly fails to render obvious Claims 1, 7, 14, 20 and dependents thereof, even assuming that they are properly combinable.

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that "the amended claims in view of the specification as best understood, seem to be introducing new matter." As discussed during the recent telephone interview, the amendments made in response to the Office Action dated June 27, 2006 were made for clarification purposes and do not introduce new matter. In particular, these amendments, at least in part, clarified that the symbol indicator is rotatable about an axis as the axis translates or moves relative to a display of symbols. As discussed above, the specification provides ample support for a rotatable symbol indicator having an axis, where the axis translates as the symbol indicator rotates. (See, for example, Specification, pg. 9, lines 14 to 18; pg. 10, lines 30 to pg. 11, line 2; pg. 13, lines 3 to 13; and Figs. 3 and 4).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejections of Claims 1 to 23.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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